

REMARKS

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant graciously acknowledges that in the Office Action mailed September 28, 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 1-14 and 21-22. Applicant also graciously acknowledges that the Examiner stated that claims 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Masood et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,580,981). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 15 as amended recites “wherein when the condition is not satisfied and the communication data is relayed between two intermediary terminals, the communication data is relayed only in the first particular direction.” On page 4, the Office Action acknowledges that “Masood et al. discloses repeating relaying the communication data between two of the terminals such that the communication data is relayed in multiple directions and not only in a first particular direction.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 15 has been overcome. Claims 16 and 17 depend upon claim 15 and should be allowable for similar reasons, at a minimum.

SUMMARY

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (312) 321-4277.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 27, 2007